

PUBLIC WORKS
1113 BROADWAY
P.O. BOX 218
HIGHLAND, IL 62249

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MARCH 25, 2011

Spring Time at Public Works

Spring began on Monday bringing warmer weather and greening lawns. The focus of the Public Works Department also changes with the season. Hopefully the snow removal equipment can be put away and it is time to get out the mowers.

The spring rains can cause problems with drainage. The City tries to head off any flooding that may occur by keeping the storm drains open and flowing. To this end the Street Department utilized the street sweeper, clearing ditches and drainage swales of debris, and unclogging



Yard waste is blocking the drainage outlet.

or replacing collapsed culverts and storm drains. Residents can help by not placing yard debris into the street. By keeping lawn clippings and leaves out of the street the storm drains are easier to keep clean. The City's contracted trash haulers will

remove unlimited amounts of yard waste along with you regular trash pick up as long as it is properly prepared. All leaves, grass clippings, twigs and brush will be picked up is placed in brown kraft paper bags, a trash can that has been marked with a red x, or has been arranged into easily managed bundles of not more than 4 foot lengths. The diameter of limbs should not exceed 4 inches.

If your yard has a drainage ditch, keeping this waterway clear of obstructions will help keep rain water in the ditch. Many subdivisions were designed with drainage ways in the easements. Homeowners can help manage the storm water in their neighborhoods by keeping these areas properly maintained and clear of obstructions.

The Water & Sewer division also sees a new set of problems in the spring. Infiltration of storm water into the sanitary sewer lines during heavy rain events can cause real trouble. The combination of excess groundwater and compromised sewer lines cause the mains to run full and the result can be sanitary sewer backups.

Storm water in basements can also be a problem if the homeowner hasn't properly maintained their downspouts and gutters. Residents can help by

making sure that roof gutters are clean and downspouts are working and directed away from the foundation of the home.



Routine sewer line maintenance helps prevent backups.

Each division of the Public Works Department has an individual who is designated to be "on call" at all times during non-working hours. In the event of an emergency after normal working hours, please contact the Police Department at 654-2131, they will dispatch the appropriate department to respond to your emergency.

No one can control the weather, but there are things that we call all do to try to minimize the effects helping us to find time to relax and enjoy this beautiful time of year.

